FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to State of Forest Report 1993 of Forest Survey of India, the total forest/tree cover of the country has increased by 925 Sq. Km. over last assessment report of 1991.

(c) Comparative study of State of Forest Reports of Forest Survey of India shows that forest cover of Andhra Pradesh in 1991 assessment report was same, as in 1989 report i.e. 47,911 Sq. Km. but assessment made in 1993 shows a decline of forest cover of the state by 33 Sq. Km. over 1991 assessment.

Cleaning of Ponds in Bhopal

4584. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had announced in the month of February, 1994, a scheme to clean the ponds in Bhopal ;

(b) if so, whether this scheme is being implemented with the help and assistance of Japanese Government ;

(c) what are the main features of the proposed scheme ;

(d) by when the scheme is likley to be implemented ;

(e) whether other ponds in the State of Madhya Pradesh are also being considering for cleaning ;

(f) if so, whether any scheme is being provided for these ponds ; and

(g) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Project on "Conservation and Management of Upper and Lower Lakes of Bhopal", has been posed to the Government of Japan for provision of financial assistance. The total cost of the proposed project is Rs. 118 crores to be utilised over a five year period. The project includes activities like desilting and dreding, catchment area treatment, prevention of pollution, management of shoreline for fringe areas and improvement and management of water quality. The project proposal is presently being appraised by the Japanese authorities.

(e) to (g) In order to check water pollution, particularly in urban areas, a National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) has been prepared by the Government of India to undertake activities like catchment area treatment, desilting and weed control, prevention of pollution from point and non-point sources, R&D studies etc. Bhoj and Sagar lakes from Madhya Pradesh are included in the Plan.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh also have a scheme entitled, "Sarovar Hamari Darohar", for improving the conservation and management of water-bodies. Under this scheme, the State Government have undertaken the cleaning of the Radhasagar tank and the Niwari tank in Takamgarh District. The State Government have also identified the Yashwant Sagar (Indore), Morevan, Mandaur and Tiger Reservoir (Gwalior) and Govindgarh Sagar (Rewa) for improved conservation and management.

Publications brought out by the Zoological Survey of India

4585. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the latest publications brought out by the Zoological Survey of India ;

(b) what are their prices ; and

(c) whether these publications are available in the Parliament Library ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) There are twelve publications brought out recently by Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The details of their titles and prices are given in the statement (*see* below).

(c) The publications referred to in answer to part (a) of the question have been sent to Parliament Library by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) on 13-4-1994.